



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Sustainability Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
September 23, 2009

Present: Stafford, Duffy (chair), Britton, Hart, Hultgren, Walton

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

The August 26, 2009 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

New member, Lisa Stafford, introduced herself.

Walton reported that the Clean Energy Team is finalizing preparations for the \$500 Energy Challenge. They are also exploring whether to hold another fluorescent lighting sale, since funding has been restored to this program. The Clean Energy Team asked if they could become an official energy committee and have representation on the Sustainability Committee. It was suggested that at the next meeting there be a vote on making the Clean Energy Team a subcommittee of the Sustainability Committee.

Hultgren reported that the Town has not yet found a work study intern to help tabulate energy information. The Town will continue to pursue help. In the interim, staff has been directed to begin categorizing the strategic plan action steps in a similar format as UConn's. There was some discussion on whether the committee should look at how it defines sustainability – from a people-centric or an earth-centric viewpoint. The committee decided that for the next meeting not only should the action steps be worked on, but also some short-, intermediate- and long-term goals. The committee agreed that staff recommendations will be helpful in setting goals for the next meeting.

Duffy suggested that the sustainability committee website folder contain background documents such as the Asheville, NC Sustainability Plan, Keene, NH Climate Change Report, Mansfield's Strategic Plan, UConn's Climate Action Plan and LEED building guidelines. Committee members are also encouraged to add items to the folder by contacting Walton.

Hart reported that he recently attended an ICMA conference where sustainability was a featured topic. He found impressive examples of what other communities are doing that have a similar population to Mansfield. West Mount, CA, is an example whose population is 20,000. Hart will also be serving on the newly formed ICMA sustainability committee.

Hart gave a report on three town projects. First is the near completion of the Middle School fuel conversion. This heating season natural gas will replace the electrical heat system. Second, the school building committee is looking at whether to renovate the elementary schools or consolidate all three schools using property at Southeast Elementary School. Third, the water conservation study for non-university users of UConn's water system is about to start.

The committee proposed that the next meeting be scheduled for Wednesday, Nov 4, 2009 at 7:00, canceling the October and November regularly scheduled meetings. Staff will confirm this date and location. Agenda items include a spreadsheet of the action plan and determining goals for the near and distant future. Committee members are asked to become familiar with the sustainability section of the strategic plan for this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Lon R. Hultgren, Director of Public Works, Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk